

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON IMMUNIZATION PRACTICES

VACCINES FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM

INFLUENZA

VACCINES TO PREVENT INFLUENZA

The purpose of this resolution is to consolidate all previous resolutions pertaining to influenza vaccine into a single resolution. This resolution does not make substantive changes to any previous resolution, except the following:

1. *Clarifies the recommended influenza vaccine schedule and dosage intervals.*
2. *Clarifies influenza vaccine contraindications.*
3. *Adds additional eligible groups.*

VFC resolutions 6/94-4 and 2/95-1 are repealed and replaced by the following:

Eligible Groups

Children and adolescents with chronic disorders of the pulmonary or cardiovascular systems, including asthma.

Children and adolescents who have required regular medical follow-up or hospitalization during the preceding year because of chronic metabolic diseases (including diabetes mellitus), renal dysfunction, hemoglobinopathies, or immunosuppression (including immunosuppression caused by medications).

Children and adolescents who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy and may therefore be at risk for developing Reye syndrome after influenza.

Children and adolescents who are household members of persons in high-risk groups (e.g., the elderly, transplant recipients, and persons with AIDS).

Children and adolescents who are residents of nursing homes and other chronic-care facilities that house persons at any age who have chronic medical conditions.

Adolescent females who will be in the second or third trimester of pregnancy during influenza season.

Recommended Influenza Vaccine Schedule

Age Group	Product†	Number of doses
6 months - 8 years	Split virus only	1 or 2¶
9-12 years	Split virus only	1
>12 years	Whole or split virus	1

† Because of their decreased potential for causing febrile reactions, only split-virus vaccines should be used for children. They may be labeled as “split,” “subvirion,” or “purified-surface-antigen” vaccine.

¶ Two doses are recommended for children <9 years of age who are receiving influenza for the first time.

Recommended Dosage Intervals

Vaccine	Minimum Age	Minimum interval dose 1 to 2 (where applicable) ¶
Influenza	6 months	28 days

¶ Two doses are recommended for children <9 years of age who are receiving influenza for the first time.

Recommended Dosages

Refer to product package inserts.

Contraindications and Precautions

The following conditions are contraindications to administration of influenza vaccine:

1. **Allergy to vaccine components**
Anaphylactic reaction to the vaccine or a constituent of the vaccine (e.g. eggs).

2. **Moderate or severe illnesses with or without fever**
Persons with moderate or severe illness should be immunized as soon as they have recovered from the acute phase of the illness. Minor illnesses (e.g., upper respiratory tract infection, allergic rhinitis) with or without fever should not contraindicate the use of influenza vaccine.

The following conditions are precautions to receipt of influenza virus vaccine:

1. **History of Guillain-Barré Syndrome following influenza vaccination**
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Adopted and Effective: October 21, 1998